APPENDIX A

"CLEAN" VERSION OF EACH PARAGRAPH/SECTION/CLAIM
37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(ii) AND (c)(i)

CLAIMS (with indication of amended or new):

(NEW) 25. An articulated yoke of a universal-joint propeller shaft, the propeller shaft having a drive side and a take-off side, the articulated yoke comprising:

at least one leg member configured to couple to a machine element on at least one of the drive side and the take-off side of the universal-joint propeller shaft;

at least one bearing part connected to the leg member, the bearing part including a supporting surface defining a bore therethrough; and

a roller-bearing arrangement to position a journal of a differential-pinion shaft, the roller-bearing arrangement having a plurality of rolling elements configured to enable rotation of the journal about a longitudinal axis of the journal with respect to the supporting surface, the roller-bearing arrangement having a region of high stress adjacent to the journal, at least one of the rolling elements being highly stressed at the region of high stress, the supporting surface configured to support at least a portion of the roller-bearing arrangement;

wherein the supporting surface of the bearing part is provided with a recess in the region of high stress, the recess including a width in a direction around the journal, a depth in a direction radial of the journal, and a direction of extension extending toward a pivot axis of the journal in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the journal, the width and the depth of the recess diminishing along the direction of extension.

(NEW) 26. The articulated yoke according to claim 25, wherein at least one of a position of the recess, a profile of the recess, a shape of the recess, and a size of the recess are determined as a function of at least one parameter selected from the group of parameters consisting of size of a force to be transmitted, geometry of connecting parts of the roller-bearing arrangement, distortion of the connecting parts of the roller-bearing arrangement, and bearing play.

(NEW) 27. The articulated yoke according to claim 25, wherein the supporting surface includes surface regions along a circumferential direction, the recess being provided in the surface regions.

(NEW) 28. The articulated yoke according to claim 25, wherein the recess extends an entire length of the bore.

(NEW) 29. The articulated yoke according to claim 25, wherein the supporting surface of the bearing part further includes a second recess in a second region of high stress, the second recess being arranged symmetrically relative to a plane described by the longitudinal axis of the journal and the pivot axis of the journal.

(NEW) 30. The articulated yoke according to claim 25, further comprising:

two yoke halves having respective leg members and bearing parts.

(NEW) 31. The articulated yoke according to claim 25, wherein the bore comprises a blind hole.

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(NEW) 32. A bearing arrangement to position a differential-pinion shaft in an articulated yoke of a universal-joint propeller shaft, comprising:

at least one bearing part including a supporting surface defining a bore therethrough; and

a roller-bearing arrangement to position a journal of a differential-pinion shaft, the roller-bearing arrangement having a plurality of rolling elements configured to enable rotation of the journal about a longitudinal axis of the journal with respect to the supporting surface, the roller-bearing arrangement having a region of high stress adjacent to the journal, at least one of the rolling elements being highly stressed at the region of high stress, the supporting surface configured to support at least a portion of the roller-bearing arrangement;

wherein the supporting surface of the bearing part is provided with a recess in the region of high stress, the recess including a width in a direction around the journal, a depth in a direction radial of the journal, and a direction of extension extending toward a pivot axis of the journal in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the journal, the width and the depth of the recess diminishing along the direction of extension.

(NEW) 33. The bearing arrangement according to claim 32, wherein at least one of a position of the recess, a profile of the recess, a shape of the recess, and a size of the recess are determined as a function of at least one parameter selected from the group of parameters consisting of size of a force to be transmitted, geometry of connecting parts of the roller-bearing arrangement, distortion of the connecting parts of the roller-bearing arrangement, and bearing play.

(NEW) 34. The bearing arrangement according to claim 32, wherein the supporting surface includes surface regions along a circumferential direction, the recess being provided in the surface regions.

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(NEW) 35. The bearing arrangement according to claim 32, wherein the recess extends an entire length of the bore.

(NEW) 36. The bearing arrangement according to claim 32, wherein the supporting surface of the bearing part further includes a second recess in a second region of high stress, the second recess being arranged symmetrically relative to a plane described by the longitudinal axis of the journal and the pivot axis of the journal.